

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 409

By Littleton

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the Pioneer Bible Class of Dickson First United Methodist Church on its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

WHEREAS, the many fine churches across this State constitute an institutional foundation for an orderly and just society for all Tennesseans, and their dedicated service to God and humanity is the bedrock upon which our State and nation are founded; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we recognize those venerable religious institutions and their congregations that, through their unflagging capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, strive to enrich the lives of people in their communities; and

WHEREAS, one such dynamic and historic community of faith is the Pioneer Bible Class at Dickson First United Methodist Church, whose members will celebrate the group's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary on March 11, 2023; and

WHEREAS, established in 1923 under the shepherding of Brother N. Burch Tucker, the all-male Pioneer Bible Class had an initial enrollment of about ninety members, but it was quick to expand to nearly 150 individuals; and

WHEREAS, in the 1960s, the classroom where the group met was expanded to almost three times its initial size to compensate for the enormous influx of new members, and this monumental task was accomplished by manually digging out the basement below the sanctuary; and

WHEREAS, the White Christmas program, where members deliver approximately 300 Christmas food baskets countywide, began in the 1940s and continues to this day under the care of the Dickson First United Methodist Church Men's Fellowship; and

WHEREAS, following the end of World War II, the class started a veterans' recognition service on the Sunday closest to Veterans Day, where veterans would form up at the intersection of Main Street and College Street and march into the sanctuary; special guest speakers were invited to the service, including military chaplains, retired and active duty personnel, veterans of the church, disabled veterans, elected officials, and many others; and

WHEREAS, the Pioneer Bible Class has been an avid supporter of the Volunteers in Mission program, both financially and by participation, and several members have been on more than seventy-five mission trips to such locations as the Caribbean Islands, Honduras, Brazil, Puerto Rico, Cuba, and Guatemala; and

WHEREAS, these mission trips have constructed churches, schools, homes, and clinics; distributed water filters, medical and dental care, eyeglasses, Bibles, and food; and taught hygiene education and Bible school to the local populace; and

WHEREAS, the Pioneer Bible Class continues to this day in its original mission of studying the Bible with a fervent faith and a studious mind; and

WHEREAS, one of the great religious institutions and catalysts for positive spiritual change in our State, the Pioneer Bible Class of Dickson First United Methodist Church has stood on the rock-solid foundation of Christian belief, service, and love for 100 years; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend the Pioneer Bible Class of Dickson United Methodist Church on the celebration of the group's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, extending our best wishes for the class's continued success and growth in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to

the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.